

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 1.

Please cancel claims 5, 6 and 47 without prejudice or disclaimer.

1. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical solid dosage unit for oral administration to a human female comprising a therapeutically effective amount of 17 β -estradiol-3-acetate and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein the percent moisture of said dosage unit is less than or equal to 8%, the amount of 17 β -estradiol-3-acetate is from about 0.1 to about 10 mg as estradiol equivalent and the solid dosage unit further comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable inhibitor of ester hydrolysis that is acetic acid.

2-3 (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) The dosage unit according to claim 1, wherein the percent moisture of said dosage unit is less than 5%.

5-6 (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) The dosage unit according to claim 1, further comprising one or more additional steroids.

8. (Previously Presented) The dosage unit according to claim 7, wherein said one or more steroids have progestational activity.

9. (Original) The dosage unit according to claim 4, wherein the dosage unit is prepared by a granulation method.

10. (Previously Presented) The dosage unit according to claim 1, wherein the dosage unit is a tablet, capsule, powder, lozenge, or troche.

11. (Previously Presented) The dosage unit according to claim 1, wherein the dosage unit is a tablet or capsule.

12-47 (Cancelled)